

FOODS THAT MAKE YOU BEAUTIFUL

Eating right won't necessarily make you look like you've spent a day at the spa, but some foods contain powerful substances that can improve the appearance of your skin.

Fluids

Water is essential to your skin diet because it helps moisturize the skin. Experts recommend that we drink 6 to 8 glasses of water throughout the day.

Omega 3 Fatty Acids

These types of fats must be obtained from food, because our bodies can't produce them. Omega 3 fatty acids help reduce acne, decrease skin inflammation, moisturize, reduce cellulite and improve skin texture. What to eat: sardines, mackerel, salmon, walnuts, flax seeds, pumpkin seeds, soybeans and tofu.

Antioxidants

Antioxidants play a key role destroying free radicals. Free radicals damage collagen, the elastic tissue in our skin that declines with age. What to eat: berries (especially blueberries), black grapes, brazil nuts, broccoli, carrots, cherries, chestnuts, hazelnuts, kale, raisins, papaya, peas, peppers, prunes, spinach, sweet potatoes and tomatoes.

Iron

Iron is used for the formation of hemoglobin. A deficiency in iron brings anemia, and this shows up in our bodies by a pale complexion and dark circles under the eyes. What to eat: red meat, seafood, liver, eggs and spinach.

Vitamin A

Vitamin A helps in the formation of new cells. This keeps our skin supple and is vital for our eyes and hair. What to eat: whole milk, whole butter, liver, eggs, carrots, sweet potatoes, winter squash, broccoli, spinach and kale.

Vitamin C

Vitamin C is a powerful antioxidant, essential for the production of collagen. What to eat: Oranges, lemons, grapefruits, limes, tomatoes, potatoes, papaya, broccoli, brussel sprouts, black currants, kiwi, strawberries, peas and cauliflower.

Vitamin E

Another antioxidant, Vitamin E, fights the damage of free radicals. This vitamin helps our skin retain its moisture. A lack of Vitamin E can result in premature wrinkles, pale skin, acne, easy bruising and slow wound healing. What to eat: Vegetable oils, nuts and seeds, peanut butter, wheat germ, whole grains, avocados and sweet potatoes.

Vitamin B complex

Vitamin B complex is perfect for keeping your skin moisturized and smooth. What to eat: milk, poultry, red meat, offal, eggs, bananas, soya beans, whole grain, wheat germ, peanut butter and cereal.

Selenium

Selenium is perfect for protecting against free radicals. It also helps to counter dry skin. Selenium along with vitamin E supports the immune system. What to eat: cereals, meat, offal, seafood, eggs, brazil nuts, whole grains, mushrooms, beans, molasses and wheat germ.

Zinc

Zinc is another mineral that is vital to the immune system. It manufactures collagen and speeds up healing in our bodies, including the skin. A deficiency produces stretch marks, a dull complexion, white spots on fingernails, dandruff and stubborn blemishes. What to eat: seafood, red meat, cheese, brewer's yeast, whole grains, mushrooms, offal, eggs, turkey and nuts.